operators in Cellular (other than 4 metro cities) and basic telecom services. Actual details will be known after opening of the financial bids for the tenders already invited for the services.

Defective laying of pipelines for transportation of crude oil

327. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pipe lines for carrying out transportation of crude oil from Lakue oil field to refineries outside the district of Sibsagar has been laid in violation of the provisions of Section 7(1)(d) of the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Rights and User in Land) Act, 1962;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that pipelines were laid just below one foot of the surface instead of one meter as provided by law;

(d) whether Government will conduct an inquiry by the appropriate authority in this regard; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Train accidents

328. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway accidents in the country in 1994 and so far in 1995;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured in each of the accident and the actual amount paid respectively to each victim;

(c) the details of accidents apparently caused by human failure and the number of accidents caused by other reasons;

(d) what is the percentage of increase in railway accidents and deaths during the past three years;

(e) the loss incurred by railways each year in the last three years due to accidents; and

(f) the details of steps taken to prevent accidents and ensure safe railway journey?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) During the period 1.1.1994 to 30.6.1995, there were 722 consequential train accidents on the Indian Railways comprising 52 collisions, 563 derailments, 99 accidents at level crossings and 8 cases of fire in trains.

(b) 510 persons lost their lives and 1078 sustained injuries in these accidents. So far, Rs. 72,84,907/- has been paid as compensation and Rs. 18,51,700/- has been paid as ex-gratia relief. The rest of the cases are under adjudication and payment will be made as soon as decrees are passed by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

The compensation in case of death and permanent disability is Rs. 2 lakhs and in case of injuries, the minimum compensation is Rs. 16,000/- and the maximum is Rs. 1,80,000/-.

(c) As per provisional information, majority of the accidents were due to failure of railway staff (489 cases), failure of persons other than railway staff (103 cases) and equipment failure (73 cases).

(d) The number of train accidents decreased by 5.5% from 530 during 1991-